

Wisconsin Early Care and Education Federal Relief Funds



Since March 2020, the Department of Children and Families developed the following funding opportunities and supports for early care and education programs and educators through federal relief provided by the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** and the **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA)**.

Child Care Counts

\$237 million

COVID-19 Emergency Payment Program

- Funded through the **CARES Act**
- Delivered **\$50,949,747** to **2,712 child care providers**
- Helped keep **over 20,000 child care workers** employed and receiving pay during Spring and Summer 2020
- Enabled child care to continue for **almost 80,000 Wisconsin children**

COVID-19 Supplementary Payment Program

- Funded through the **CARES Act**
- Delivered **\$79,747,570** to **2,879 child care providers**
- Helped keep **over 19,000 child care workers** remain employed or become employed during Fall 2020
- Enabled child care to continue for **almost 70,000 children under age 6**

COVID-19 Response & Relief Program

- Funded through **CRRSA**
- Delivered **\$106,505,165** to over **3,260 child care providers**
- Helped keep **over 27,711 child care workers** remain employed or become employed during Spring 2021
- Enabled child care to continue for **over 98,000 children**

Check out the [Child Care Counts Payment Dashboard](#)

Workforce Retention and Recognition Program

\$10 million

- Funded through **CRRSA**
- Provided stipends of **\$300-\$550** to **over 14,000 eligible early childhood educators**
- DCF contracted with the [Wisconsin Early Childhood Association \(WECA\)](#) to disseminate these stipends using their existing [REWARD Stipend Program](#) system



Provider Training

\$5 million

- Funded through **CRRSA**
- Currently, the entry level trainings that are required for early care and education (ECE) workforce are outdated in content and often inaccessible to educators who have a disability, live in rural or tribal communities without access to broadband, do not have appropriate technology, speak a language other than English, or do not live near a higher education institution
- Funding will be used to modernize the curriculum to include current best practices, make required courses available online and in-person, and translate trainings into multiple languages and for varying abilities



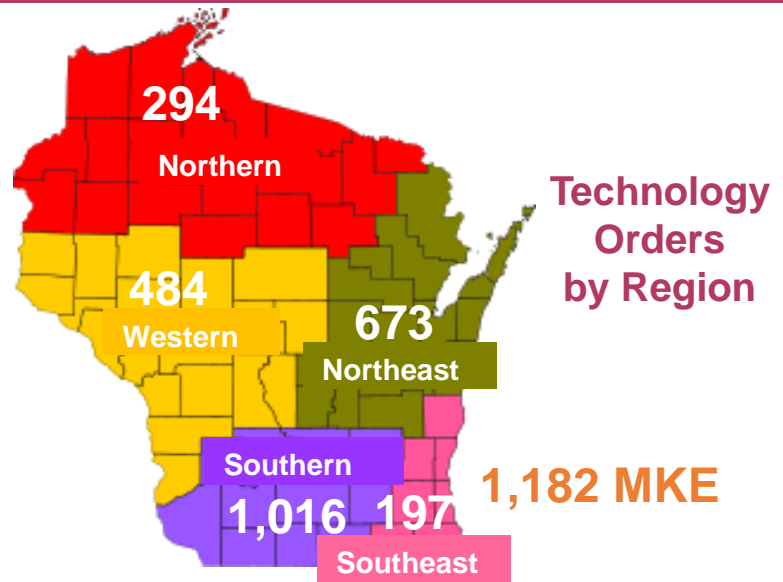
Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

Wisconsin Early Care and Education Federal Relief Funds

Technology Access Program

\$10 million

- Funded through **CRRSA**
- Provided **3,846 child care providers** with technology devices and software including laptops, tablets, printers/scanners, wireless routers, Wi-Fi access points, Wi-Fi boosters, walkie talkies, and QuickBooks accounting software to support business operations
- DCF contracted with [Supporting Families Together Association \(SFTA\)](#) and [Kaplan Early Learning Company](#) to offer eligible child care programs the opportunity to order free technology devices and soft ware to support business operations



Shared Services Networks

\$5.5 million

- Funded through **CRRSA**
- With child care businesses operating on thin margins and COVID-19 highlighting the need for sustainable business models, shared services networks aim to maximize resource efficiencies
- DCF established a contract with the [Wisconsin Early Childhood Association \(WECA\)](#) to expand the [Wisconsin Early Education Shared Services Network \(WEESN\)](#)
- WEESN brings together family and center-based ECE programs to pool resources and leverage economies of scale:
 - Automates back-office tasks
 - Provides tailored business coaching
 - Facilitates bulk purchasing
 - Utilizes shared substitute teacher pool

Business-Supported Child Care

\$10 million



- Funded through **CRRSA**
- In an effort to help businesses that are struggling to recruit and retain staff because of a lack of child care, **Partner Up! Grants** will incentivize workforce development through partnerships between Wisconsin businesses and child care providers
- Businesses in essential sectors will enter agreements with child care providers to secure subsidized slots for their employees
- Child care providers receive full tuition at true cost-of-care, providing consistent revenue at a pre-determined amount, resulting in stable budget and stronger business practices



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families